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Louis T. Talbot
Biola University

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Recommended Citation

Talbot, Louis T., "Jesus Christ of Christian Science vs. The Jesus Christ of the Bible" (1945). *Talbot Publications*. 115.

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[Pamphlet]

The Jesus Christ of Christian Science vs. The Jesus Christ of the Bible

By Rev. Louis T. Talbot

It is sometimes asked by the thoughtless, “Why should a Christian minister single out from the religions of the world and deal with the faith and practice of Christian Science? “My answer is two-fold: First, we are instructed in the Word of God to “ring the alarm” and to sound the warning in regard to false teachers and false teaching whenever the appearance is made. Paul’s instruction to Timothy in this regard is set forth in his epistle, 1 Tim. 4:1-6: “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron: forbidding to marry ... If THOU PUT THE BRETHREN IN REMEMBRANCE OF THESE THINGS, THOU SHALT BE A GOOD MINISTER OF JESUS CHRIST.” In these words to Timothy, all pastors are given their marching orders, and they are expressly commanded to point out heresies and thus warn the sheep of the flock of God. In this particular regard, the Son of God has certainly set us an example, for when the disciples asked Him, “What shall be the sign of thy coming?” He replied (Matt. 24:24, 25), “There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. BEHOLD, I HAVE TOLD YOU.” If Christian Science did not come to us in the name of Jesus Christ and profess to be the voice of God for the present hour, I would have paid no more attention to it

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than to the other false religions of the earth. But, because it does come in the Name of Him, “who died for our sins and arose again for our justification,” quoting the Bible and yet denying everything the Bible teaches pertaining to God, Jesus Christ, sin, atonement, and all the other foundation truths of the Christian faith, there is, then, nothing left for a true pastor to do but to point out the dangers that lurk behind the Christian garb of this disastrous deception. We saw in our study last week that Christian Science denies the personality of God and that the god of this cult is not the God that we find revealed in the Holy Writ—the God the Christian worships and adores. This evening I want to show you that the Christ of Christian Science is not the Christ who is revealed to us in the Bible. Let me first of all give you an outline of the teaching of this system regarding the Person of Jesus Christ. “Christian Science makes a distinction between Christ and Jesus, saying Christ has always existed. Jesus was but a phantom, an apparent body which Christ seemed to take upon Himself in concession to human ignorance that He might demonstrate the unreality of matter, the error of sickness, the dream of death, and the all-ness of God as in impersonal divine principle. The Virgin Mary never conceived and brought forth an actual body. She conceived and gave birth to a spiritual ideal, an idea produced by her conscious

communion with the divine impersonal principle. She gave birth only to an idea, and this idea she named Jesus. The real Christ never came in the flesh. His appearance as Jesus was temporary. After what was supposed to have been His death, Jesus disappeared forever. When Christ ascended, it was not the material body of Jesus which went upward, it was simply the Christ idea ascending into the higher apprehension of His disciples. Jesus does not sit at the right hand of God nor is His personality to be worshipped. According to Christian Science, Jesus, or what passed for Jesus, was continually learning of the Christ idea in Him. He was not always full of wisdom—had He been so He would not have prophesied and hastened His own death. He would not have supported that false idea by His own words.

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“He never came into the world to save sinners from their sins. There are no sinners and there is no such thing as sin. He came to save people from believing in sin. He came to destroy the sense of sin by teaching people they could not commit sin. When He had fully attained to the knowledge of the truth, He became, not a personal saviour to those who believe in Him, but a way-shower, and expert in mind healing. He was not a sacrificial substitute for men, nor did He die for sin. Christ never died at all, He only seemed to die. Jesus Christ is not an embodied High-Priest in heaven. There is no need for a High-Priest between God and man, for all is God and the real man is part of and is co-existent with God. The second coming of Christ is not to be the descent of a corporeal man whom every eye should see. The second coming of Christ is the revelation of Christian Science to the mind of man. To tell the whole truth, Jesus never existed, for Jesus appeared to be a material body and there is no matter. Christian Science not only denies the personality of God, but also denies the personality of Christ.” --Dr. I. M. Haldeman. I shall now substantiate this declaration of the teaching of Christian Science by referring you to quotations from their textbook. Science and Health, Edition 74 “The Virgin-mother conceived this idea of God, and gave to her ideal the name of Jesus.” Page 334. “Jesus was the offspring of Mary’s self-conscious communion with God.” Page 335. The meaning of these statements is simply this, that Mary had communion with the impersonal mind, God; and this communion resulted in a conception, not of a literal body, but an idea or a thought, and this idea she called Jesus. In Christian Science, therefore, Jesus is nothing more than an idea that passed through the mind of the Virgin Mary. “The invisible Christ was incorporeal (that is, without body), whereas Jesus was a corporeal or bodily existence.” Page 229. The distinction is here made between Christ and Jesus. They are not one as the Scripture teaches, they are two:

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the one incorporeal, the other corporeal. It would seem from this statement that Christian Science teaches that Jesus really had a body, for Mrs. Eddy refers to Him here as being corporeal, but she qualifies this reference to corporeality on Page 211: “wearing in part a human form; that is, as it SEEMED to mortal view.” Jesus, therefore, did not have a body after all. He wore “in part a human form,” but this was due to mortal belief; consequently it “SEEMED” to be

real “to mortal view.” “The Christ dwelt forever as an ideal in the bosom of the Principle of the man Jesus.” Page 334. From this we learn that Christ did not dwell in the man Jesus, but just in the principle of the man—only in the “bosom” of that! I feel constrained to say that of all the insane nonsense I ever read, this is the most grotesque. “The Jesus and the Christ continued until the Master’s ascension; and then the human, the corporeal concept, or Jesus, disappeared; while the invisible, the spiritual idea, or the Christ, continued to exist in the eternal order of Divine Science.” Page 229. All this is very plain in regard to the teaching of Christian Science concerning Jesus Christ. Jesus and Christ continued together as one until the ascension, when the Christ idea ascended into the higher apprehension of the disciples. This gave them liberation from mortal belief in the reality of matter and consequently, “the corporeal concept, or Jesus, disappeared.” You see He was only a concept to the mortal belief of the disciples, and the body of Jesus seemed real only during the period they were subject to mortal view. The moment the Christ idea dominated them, the phantom, Jesus, vanished. In teaching all this, Christian Science has introduced into Christendom Buddhism dressed in a Christian garb, and not Christianity as it is taught in the Bible. Let us bring these statements from Christian Science under the lens of Holy Writ. Let us turn to Luke 2:7. “And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”

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It seems to me as I read this passage of Scripture that this is the record of something more than the birth of just an idea. If Christian Science is correct, we could make this passage read: “And she brought forth her firstborn idea, and wrapped it in swaddling clothes, and laid it in a manger; because there was no room for an idea in the inn.” Do you think the two statements would be synonymous? No mentally sound person would say so. The “swaddling clothes” emphasize the fact that a real body was born.

Let us examine the Christian Science statement, “Jesus was the offspring of Mary’s self-conscious communion with God.” Compare this with Luke 1:35. “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” The Holy Ghost is the Third Person of the Trinity, and Jesus was conceived as a result of the act here described and not by a woman having self-conscious communion with an impersonal something called God. Mrs. Eddy says, “Christ was incorporeal.” (That is, without bodily existence.) The Word of God tells us again and again that Christ had a body. Look at Romans 7:4: “Ye are become dead to the law by the BODY OF CHRIST.” 1 Peter 2:24: “Who his own self bare our sins IN HIS OWN BODY on the tree.” Hebrews 10:10: “We are sanctified through the offering of the BODY OF JESUS CHRIST once for all.” Any impartial judge who has any spiritual insight whatever, will recognize at once a controversy between Science and Health and the Bible, and that the Christ as taught in the former is not the living man Christ Jesus that we come to know through the latter.

My purpose is to show you that if you accept the Christ of Christian Science, you repudiate the Christ of God who is the only real Christ and the alone Saviour of man.

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Then again, compare with the Bible the statement in Science and Health, Page 229. “Jesus and Christ continued until the Master’s ascension and then the human, the corporeal concept of Jesus disappeared; while the invisible, the spiritual idea or Christ continued to exist in the order of divine science.” Bring this statement under the lens of Luke 24:39. The scene is in the upper room and after the resurrection when, according to Mrs. Eddy, the Jesus or the seeming corporeal man had disappeared. Jesus appeared in their midst and they were terrified, thinking they had seen a spirit. Jesus demonstrated that He is the SAME JESUS that He has the SAME BODY as He had before the crucifixion, and that that body had actually risen from the grave. How does He do this? He says, “Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have.” Flesh and bones belong to a body, and if Jesus had a body, as He said He had, then He was not a corporeal concept nor had He disappeared. On the contrary, He was very much in evidence and He demonstrates this not merely by asking them to handle Him, but He asked for something to eat, and they gave Him broiled fish and the record says, “HE DID EAT BEFORE THEM.” Let me ask this question, Who is right—Mrs. Eddy or the Son of God? Would you like to know what Mrs. Eddy’s explanation is of the Lord’s statement in Luke 24:39? Here it is in Science and Health, page 209: “To accommodate himself to immature ideas of spiritual power, Jesus called the body, which he raised from the grave ‘flesh and bones’.” This explanation will never satisfy a child of God. It represents Jesus as saying something that was not true. He “accommodated” Himself by telling an untruth. He was making them believe a lie. Although He did not have flesh and bones, He said He had them. In making such a claim, He not only told an untruth Himself, but deliberately deceived those to whom He spoke. I wish to say that Jesus never did accommodate Himself to any belief that was not true, and He always rebuked false doctrine wherever He found it.

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But in conclusion, let us call together some witnesses and ask them whether Jesus was only a concept and whether this Jesus disappeared or was annihilated after the so-called resurrection. Our first witnesses not only to His resurrection but also to His ascension, are the angels. Acts 1:10, 11. “And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold two men stood by them in white apparel which also said ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This SAME Jesus shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” Here is the angelic announcement that the same Jesus still lives and that He is also going to return in the same manner in which He went away. Stephen is our next witness. In his death

agony, he saw the heavens open, and what did he see? He tells us in his own words, Acts 7:56, 59. "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God . . . Lord JESUS receive my spirit." Paul is our next witness. He tells us that as he was on the road to Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven shone round about him and he heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Paul replied, "Who art thou, Lord?" And back came the answer, "I AM JESUS." Here is the clear revelation of the fact that Jesus had not ceased to exist, but He is risen and seated at the right hand of God in a real body of flesh and bones. John is our next witness. He tells us that he was on the Isle of Patmos and there was given a vision of the Lord returning in glory. He describes that coming in the words of Rev. 1:7, "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him." Here is a clear statement that every eye shall gaze upon Him when He comes to take the reins of government. Visibility is one of the marks of corporeality. In that day Zechariah's vision will then have its fulfillment. "And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thy hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends."

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I have given you sufficient tonight to show to any honest man that the Jesus Christ of Christian Science is not the Jesus Christ of the Bible; that the Christ of Christian Science is a false Christ and is in reality a shadow of the Anti-Christ. I shall close by quoting two verses of Scripture that apply to Christian Science and mark it out as the Spirit of the Antichrist. 1 John 4:1-3. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: EVERY SPIRIT THAT CONFESSETH THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH IS OF GOD: AND EVERY SPIRIT THAT CONFESSETH NOT THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH IS NOT OF GOD: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come." 1 John 5:1. "WHOSOEVER BELEIVETH THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST IS BORN OF GOD." Christian Science is condemned by both statements given here. It denies that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, and consequently bears the marks of the Antichrist. It denies that Jesus is the Christ, and therefore is outside the realm of true Christianity.